**Bowls England/General Secretaries Report 2022**

Before I begin my report I must apologise for my absence from this years meeting, this is due to Bowls England arranging the Counties Conference to coincide with our AGM, both myself & Diane Sekjer are in Coventry attending this event where it is hoped we may get some information & indeed input into the way our sport is run as without our attendance Kent will have no voice, In my absence today Geoff Chapman (Chairman) will act on my behalf.

I shall report on this meeting as soon as possible after my return

My report begins this year in the hope that we have now passed through the pandemic and can now progress in a normal manner for future years, we did lose a few clubs due to the situation and some clubs are coming very close to extinction in the aftermath, although it is the hope of everyone at County & National level that this trend can be reversed over the next year or two.

Bowls England have had a couple of initiatives with the Big Bowls Weekend in May of 2022 although as a county we are not too sure how many new members that particular exercise yielded as no figures have been forthcoming from Leamington Spa where there seems to be a regular turnaround of staff, another initiative is underway at the moment with Bowls Big Bash which I understand is a new formula for new bowlers with a game format designed to encourage people of all ages to participate, but this can only succeed with the assistance of member clubs, details can be found on the Bowls England website. At the time of writing there are no clubs in Kent registered as far as I can see!

**Commonwealth Games**

For those that are interested we had two players from Kent involved in the 18-person squad with Michelle White of VCD who has represented Disability Bowls England a number of times.

We also had Sian Honor of Appleyard who has represented England at 3 commonwealth games winning 3 x medals and adding a gold in the Triples at this year’s tournament.

Kent had a number of successes at the National Finals this year winning.

The Amy Rose Bowl

The White Rose Trophy

The Walker Cup

The Men’s Champion of Champions / Harry Goodwin / Appleyard

R/U Men’s senior pairs, Steve Parr & Ken Weyand

R/U Ladies two wood Jennifer Southby

¼ final Tony Alcock Trophy Bromley

R/U Men’s Fours VCD John Coatham, Jason Haskins, Steve Marrett & Roger Kendrick

Congratulations to all winners and all who took part in this year’s competitions. I must also say a hearty thankyou to the Presidents Joy Burton & Ian King who were accompanied at the finals by Paul Proctor (SVP Men) & Diane Sekjer Ladies Secretary who attended for the whole time and watched every game between them.

I am informed that the same formats will apply next year 2023 even though there are no Commonwealth Games to interfere with the timings.

**Disciplinary**

So far, this year has been excellent with only one or two cases which have been resolved satisfactorily, it seems that most clubs have heeded the advice to include BE Reg 9 & 9a into their constitutions thereby making life easier for all, my thanks to Club Secretaries for their help in this matter and lets hope the harmonious situation can continue for many years to come so that we can all enjoy our bowls peacefully.

**Finally**

My sincere thanks to my Colleagues on the Management Committee, Rick Travers, Allan Chase, Geoff Chapman & Diane Sekjer for all their hard work this year, especial thanks must go to Anne Saunders who is standing down this year after having been on the Committee since its formation some 10/11 years ago as Ladies Finance Officer, I would like to wish her & Mike many happy years of retirement.

I am prepared to stand for a further year if you so desire it but, if anyone wishes to take mine or any other office they will be welcomed.

As previously stated, I shall report on the Counties Conference and wish everyone a “Happy Christmas” I’ll see some you hopefully in 2023, Winter well!

Rodney Clark

Hon Gen Sec/Administrator KCBA